



Request for N - STEPS Support

I. Contact Information

EPA Regional Contact Information

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State Contact Information

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*If a cross - regional effort, please provide other regional contact information:

II. Project Information

Proposed Project Type (check all that apply)

Preliminary N - STEPS staff review and feedback on:

- ☐ Draft analysis
- ☒ Draft criteria document review
- ☐ Literature review
- ☐ Independent scientific peer review (please indicate the preferred number of reviewers)
- ☐ Data analysis and presentation
- ☐ Workshop/Training

Proposed Project Description Project timeframe: Review of Montana DEQ's Yellowstone River Modeling Report

Estimated level of effort and cost: 40 hrs * 2/3 reviewers = ~ 5,000 (Steph, what were the costs of other reviews?)

Applicable State(s): Montana

Waterbody type(s): Yellowstone

Parameter(s): TN/TP

Does State have a mutually - agreed upon nutrient criteria plan?

Y ☒ N ☐

Has the State submitted milestone dates for the associated WQ PAM?

Y ☒ N ☐

Is the project associated with milestones in the State's mutually - agreed upon nutrient criteria plan?

Y ☐ N ☒

If yes, please provide a description of the associated milestone with a reference to the plan language.

If no, please describe how the project supports the State's efforts to adopt numeric nutrient criteria.

In February 2015, EPA approved Montana's numeric nutrient criteria for Wadeable streams and for specific segments of the Yellowstone River. The state plans to use models to derive numeric nutrient criteria for other nonwadeable rivers, including the remaining sections of the Yellowstone and the mainstem Missouri River. Montana DEQ (MDEQ) is finalizing their technical rationale and proposed numeric nutrient criteria for several other segments of the Yellowstone River (Mike, please specify). Once the technical review is completed, MDEQ intends to adopt the numeric criteria during their upcoming triennial review (timeframe?).



Project Summary:

MDEQ is requesting an independent peer review of their scientific rationale for their draft criteria for segments of the Yellowstone River upstream of Billings, Montana. While EPA approved the model-derived TN/TP criteria for the lower segment of the Yellowstone River, the state has made several adjustments to the model being used for this segment of the Yellowstone. (mlke, expand on the difference between the 2 models, please).

First time request?

Y ☒ N ☐

If not, please provide details of previous request(s):

Date of request(s):

Associated with previous N - STEPS support?

Y ☐ N ☐

If yes, please provide details of associated work:

Date of request(s):

N - STEPS project period of performance (approximate): March –May 2016

Brief description of associated work:

Using NSTEPS support, an independent peer review will be conducted that will examine the model assumptions, model performance, and implications on the draft TN/TP criteria.

Applicable State(s): Montana

III. Cost - share Information (if applicable)

Is the Region(s) providing funding support?

Y ☐ N ☒

If yes, what degree of support?

Please provide procurement information to N - STEPS Program Manager after EHPB approval.